AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® 4

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CIVIL WAR II

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

WHEN SCIENCE-GEEK PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, HE GAINED THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER; ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES; AND THE UNIQUE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED "SPIDER-SENSE." NOW, HE HAS FINALLY LIVED UP TO HIS POTENTIAL AS THE C.E.O. OF PARKER INDUSTRIES.

WHEN A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES PREDICTED THAT PETER PARKER'S EMPLOYEE, THE REFORMED SUPER VILLAIN CLAYTON COLE, WOULD DON HIS MASK AGAIN AND RETURN AS ***CLASH,*** THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT SPIDER-MAN AND CLASH WOULD FIGHT EACH OTHER. BUT ACTUALLY, SPIDER-MAN AND CLASH TEAMED UP TO DEAFEAT THE VILLAINOUS ***ROBOT MASTER!***

SPIDER-MAN TOLD CLASH THAT HE WOULD NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO WORK WITH THE SONIC TECHNOLOGY THAT MADE UP HIS EQUIPMENT. THIS ATTEMPT TO PROTECT CLASH WENT VERY WRONG, AND ULYSSES' VISION CAME TRUE AFTER ALL...

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YOU WANNA TREAT ME LIKE A BAD GUY? FINE.
SAY HELLO TO THE BAD GUY!
CLAYTON, STOP IT! BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT!
NO USE. HE'S NOT LISTENING. I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO DO THIS, BUT...
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I'VE STUDIED CLAYTON'S CLASH TECH INSIDE AND OUT. AFTER THE SECOND TIME HE USED IT--AGAINST THE TERMS OF HIS PAROLE--IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE THIS.
AN ANTI-SONIC INVERTER. MILES BETTER THAN THE ONE I USED THE FIRST TIME CLAYTON AND I FOUGHT.
THE COUNTER-FREQUENCY SHOULD SHUT HIS EQUIPMENT DOWN WITHOUT HURTING HIM. I HOPE...
YEW-YEW-YEW
THAT AGAIN? THE SONIC INVERTER?
SO MUCH FOR YOU AND PARKER TRUSTING ME.
COME ON, MAN. YOU'VE BARELY IMPROVED IT SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
MY NEW CLASH SUIT'S NEXT-GEN. THE GOOD STUFF I KEPT FOR MY OWN VENTURES.
BSHRAKK
WELL, THAT'S NOT GOOD.

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HONK
RATTATAT
BWHOOM
I DON'T NEED AMBIENT SOUND ANYMORE! I'VE GOT TERABYTES OF AUDIO FILES AT MY FINGERTIPS--LITERALLY!
HE'S NOT KIDDING. THAT CLASH SUIT'S *WAY* MORE POWERFUL THAN I REMEMBER.
GOTTA MOVE AWAY FROM CIVILIANS. OTHERWISE, WHETHER HE WANTS TO OR NOT...

LIKE *ME.*
THWACK!
IT'S NOT THE NOISE, IT'S THE *VIBRATIONS.*
DIRECTLY STRIKING YOUR EYEBALLS AND EARDRUMS. DISTORTING YOUR VISION. MAKING YOU SICK AND UNBALANCED.

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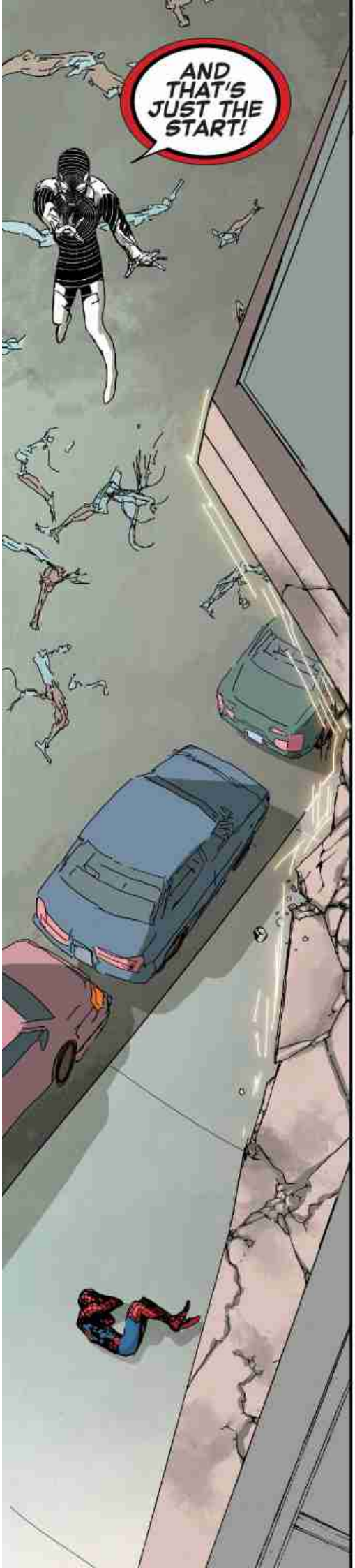
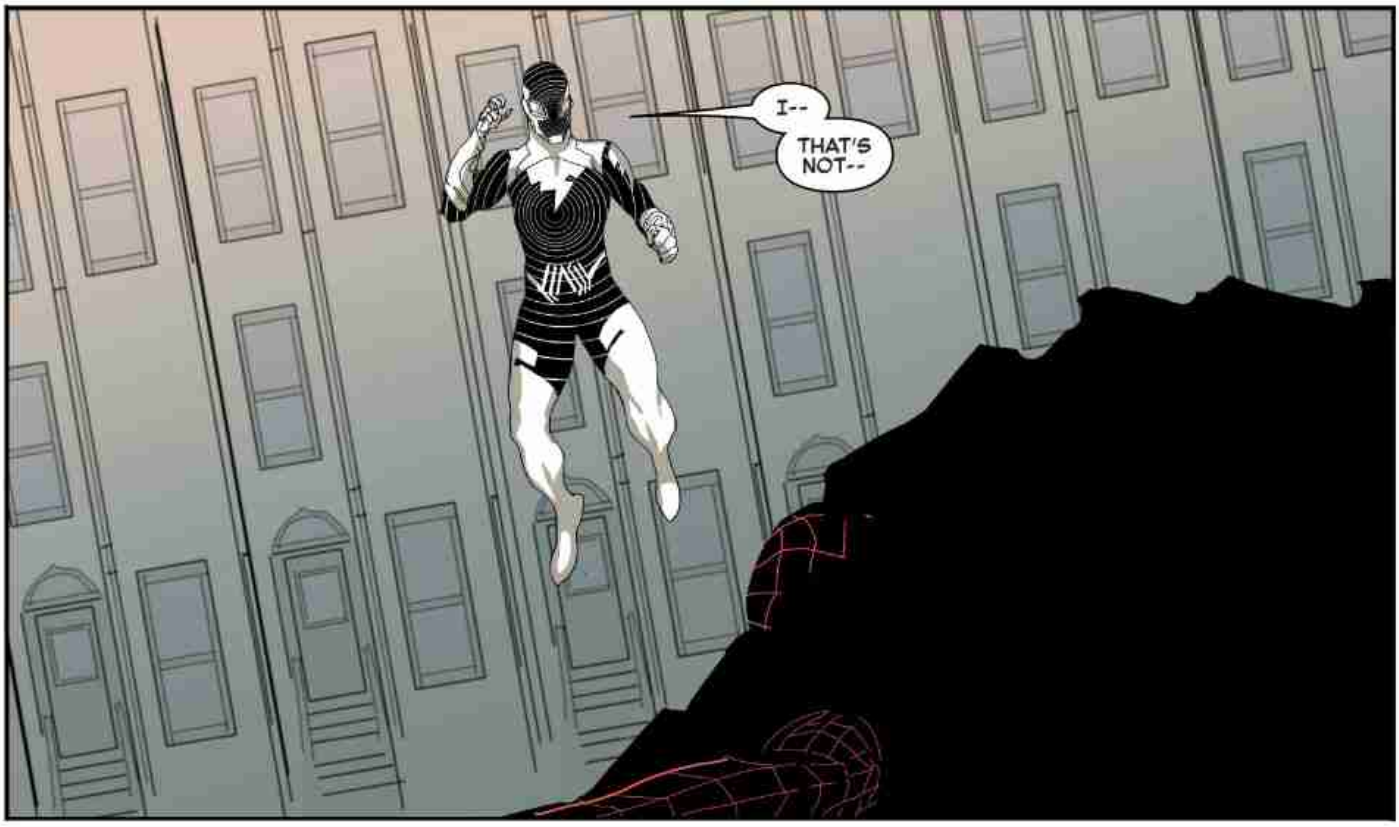


BOOO



CLASH ISN'T WHO YOU ARE. HE'S YOUR FEAR AND LONELINESS AND ANGER. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW HOW THAT FEELS.
BUT YOU HAVE A *CHOICE.*
I DON'T. THE VISION THAT *ULYSSES* KID HAD...IT CAME TRUE.
WHICH MEANS *NONE* OF US HAVE A CHOICE. THE FUTURE'S SET.

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WRONG. I'VE PERSONALLY CHANGED THINGS HE SAW. STOPPED THEM FROM HAPPENING.
ULYSSES' VISION...IT DOESN'T DEFINE YOU. *YOU* DECIDE WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE.

ARE YOU GONNA CLING TO THE CLASH TECH LIKE A CRUTCH? SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU FEEL STRONG, EVEN WHEN IT'S RUINING YOUR LIFE?
OR ARE YOU GOING TO REDEFINE YOURSELF? FIND SOMETHING ELSE YOU CAN MAKE YOUR MARK WITH...EITHER AT PARKER INDUSTRIES OR ON YOUR OWN?

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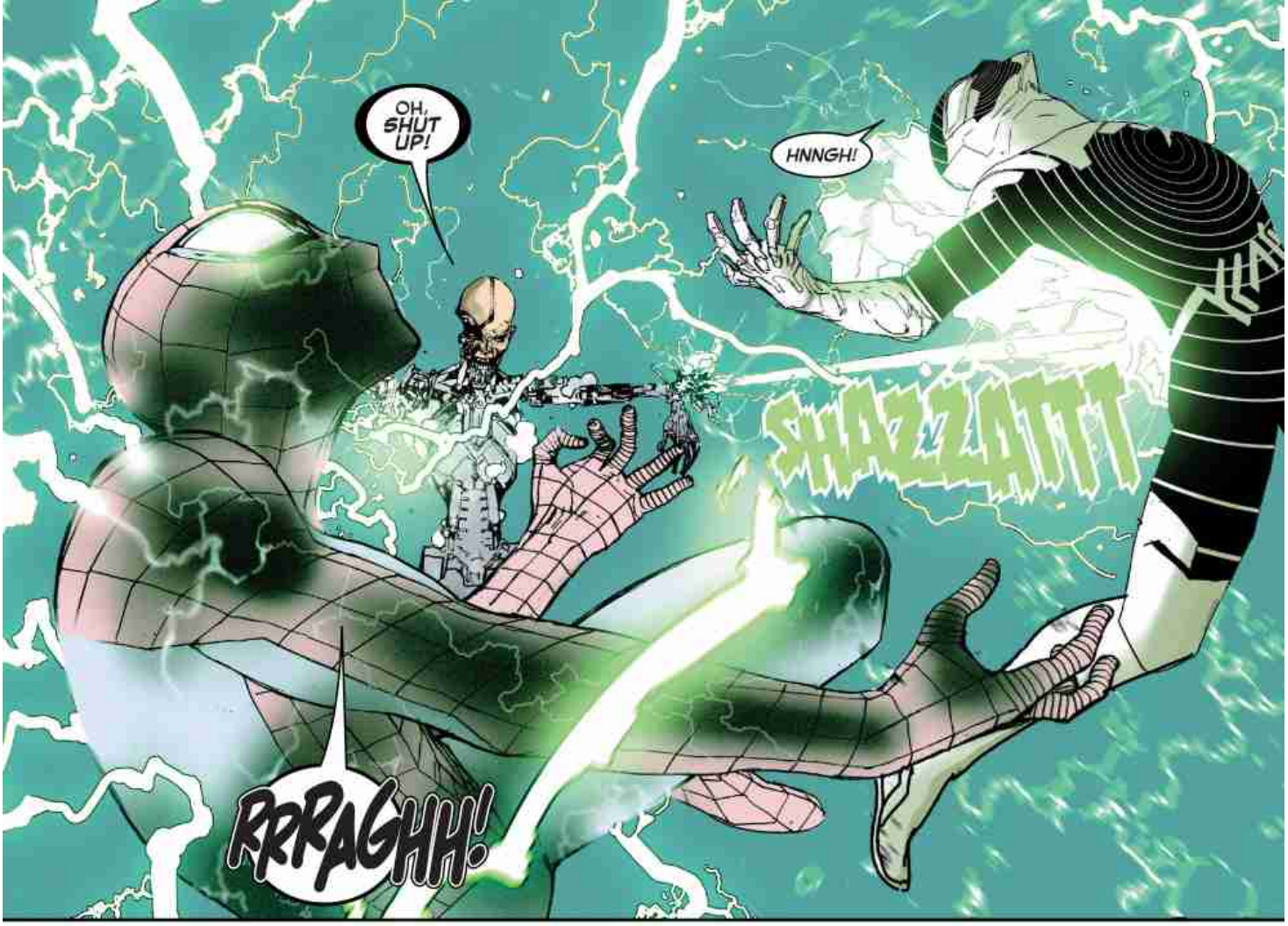

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CLAYTON, THIS IS SERIOUS! HIS ROBOTS ARE REASSEMBLING!
THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM!
WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER!
SORRY, YOU'RE RIGHT. MY FUTURE'S IN MY HANDS.
AND I DON'T WANT THE LIFE THAT GOT ME TOSSED IN JAIL. BUT Y'KNOW WHAT ELSE I DON'T WANT?
THE LIFE I'VE HAD THE PAST FEW DAYS.
I'M ON MY OWN NOW.
SO ARE YOU.
CLAYTON, WAIT!
"COME BACK, SHANE! COME BACK!" HA HA HA HA!
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OKAY... AFTER HEARING YOU QUOTE *SHANE*, I KINDA GET WHAT PEOPLE MEAN WHEN THEY SAY I RUINED THEIR CHILDHOOD EVERY TIME I CHANGE MY COSTUME.
BRNCH
URK!
I WAS JUST GETTING THROUGH TO HIM. YOU'VE REALLY GOT NO HEART, STROMM.
AND SOON YOU WON'T HAVE MUCH ELSE.
NO! GET HIM OFF! *HE'S TEARING ME APART!*
JUST LOOKING FOR ONE THING.
THERE WE GO.
KNCH

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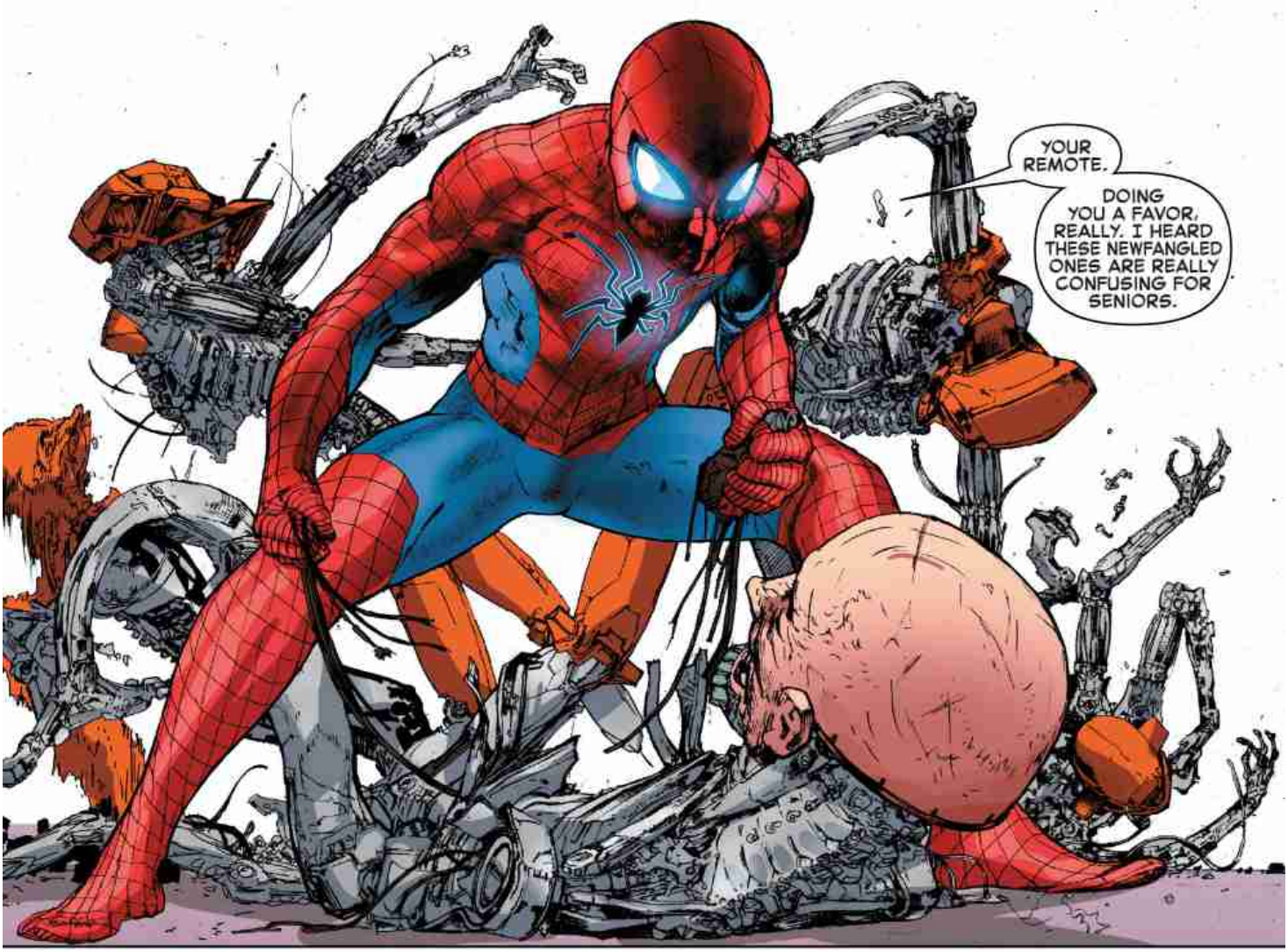

YOU THINK YOU'VE WON? HAH! I WAS *DEFENDING MYSELF* AGAINST CLAYTON COLE--AN EMPLOYEE OF PARKER INDUSTRIES! I'LL HAVE YOUR BOSS IN COURT!
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.

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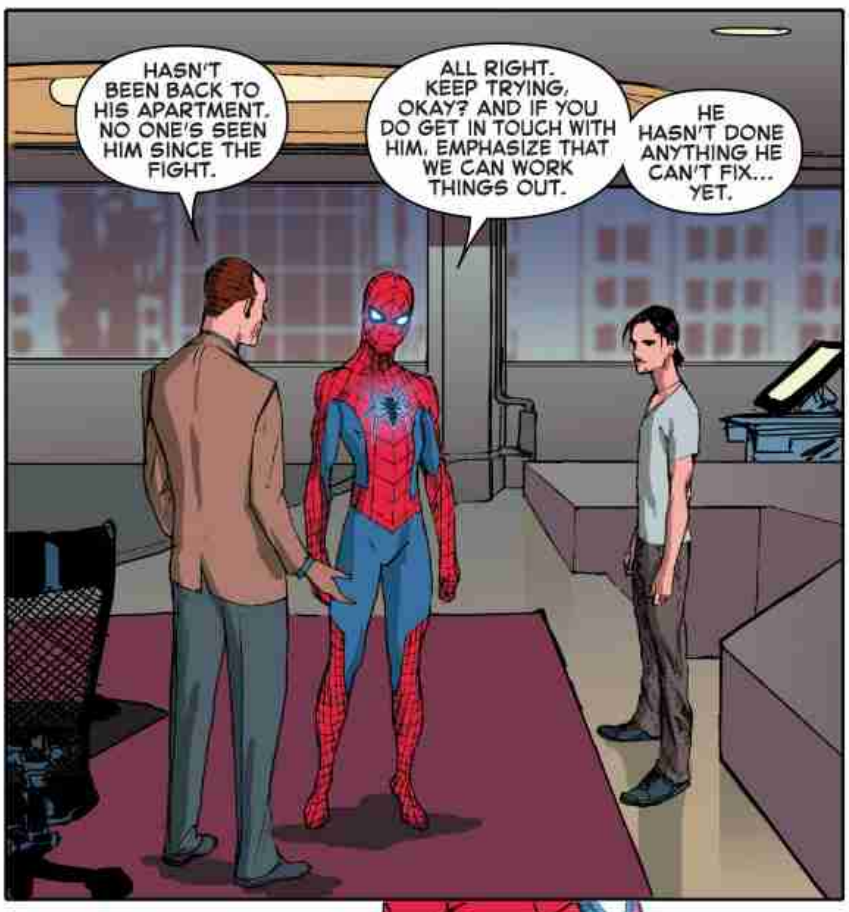
HASN'T BEEN BACK TO HIS APARTMENT. NO ONE'S SEEN HIM SINCE THE FIGHT.
ALL RIGHT. KEEP TRYING, OKAY? AND IF YOU DO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM, EMPHASIZE THAT WE CAN WORK THINGS OUT.
HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING HE CAN'T FIX... YET.

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DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY. HARRY'S GOT A CHECKERED PAST, TOO. HE'S JUST AFRAID OF WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE.
HE'S GOT REASON, DOESN'T HE?
THE VISION I HAD, OF CLAYTON FIGHTING YOU...I WONDER IF THAT ONLY CAME TRUE BECAUSE I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT.
HE COULD TELL WE WERE ACTING WEIRD AROUND HIM. HE WAS ON THE EDGE, BUT MAYBE I *PUSHED HIM OVER.*
WRONG. IF ANYONE DID, IT WAS ME.
YOU GAVE ME A WARNING THAT CLAYTON WAS IN A BAD PLACE, AND I HANDLED IT THE WORST POSSIBLE WAY.
PETER PARKER
MAYBE I CAN LEARN TO CONTROL MY POWERS BETTER...HAVE SOME INFLUENCE OVER WHAT VISIONS COME TO ME. FOCUS ON STUFF THAT *MATTERS.*
LIKE YOU SAID BEFORE, I COULD LOOK AT THE RESEARCH YOU GUYS ARE DOING HERE, TRY TO STEER YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION--
YEAH... I'VE HAD SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT.
I'M GONNA HAVE TO WITHDRAW THE OFFER.

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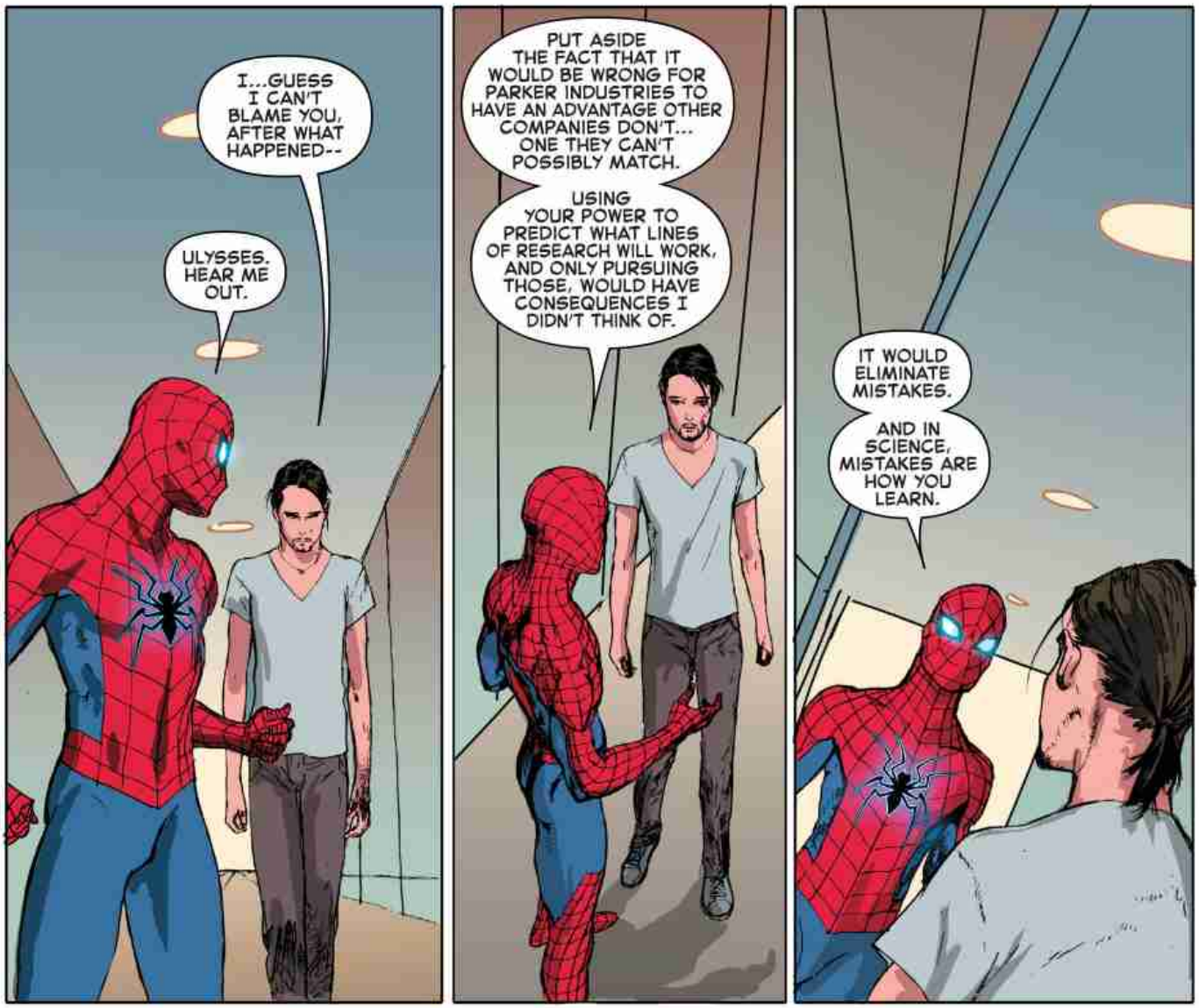
I...GUESS I CAN'T BLAME YOU, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED--
ULYSSES. HEAR ME OUT.
PUT ASIDE THE FACT THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR PARKER INDUSTRIES TO HAVE AN ADVANTAGE OTHER COMPANIES DON'T... ONE THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY MATCH.
USING YOUR POWER TO PREDICT WHAT LINES OF RESEARCH WILL WORK, AND ONLY PURSUING THOSE, WOULD HAVE CONSEQUENCES I DIDN'T THINK OF.
IT WOULD ELIMINATE MISTAKES.
AND IN SCIENCE, MISTAKES ARE HOW YOU LEARN.

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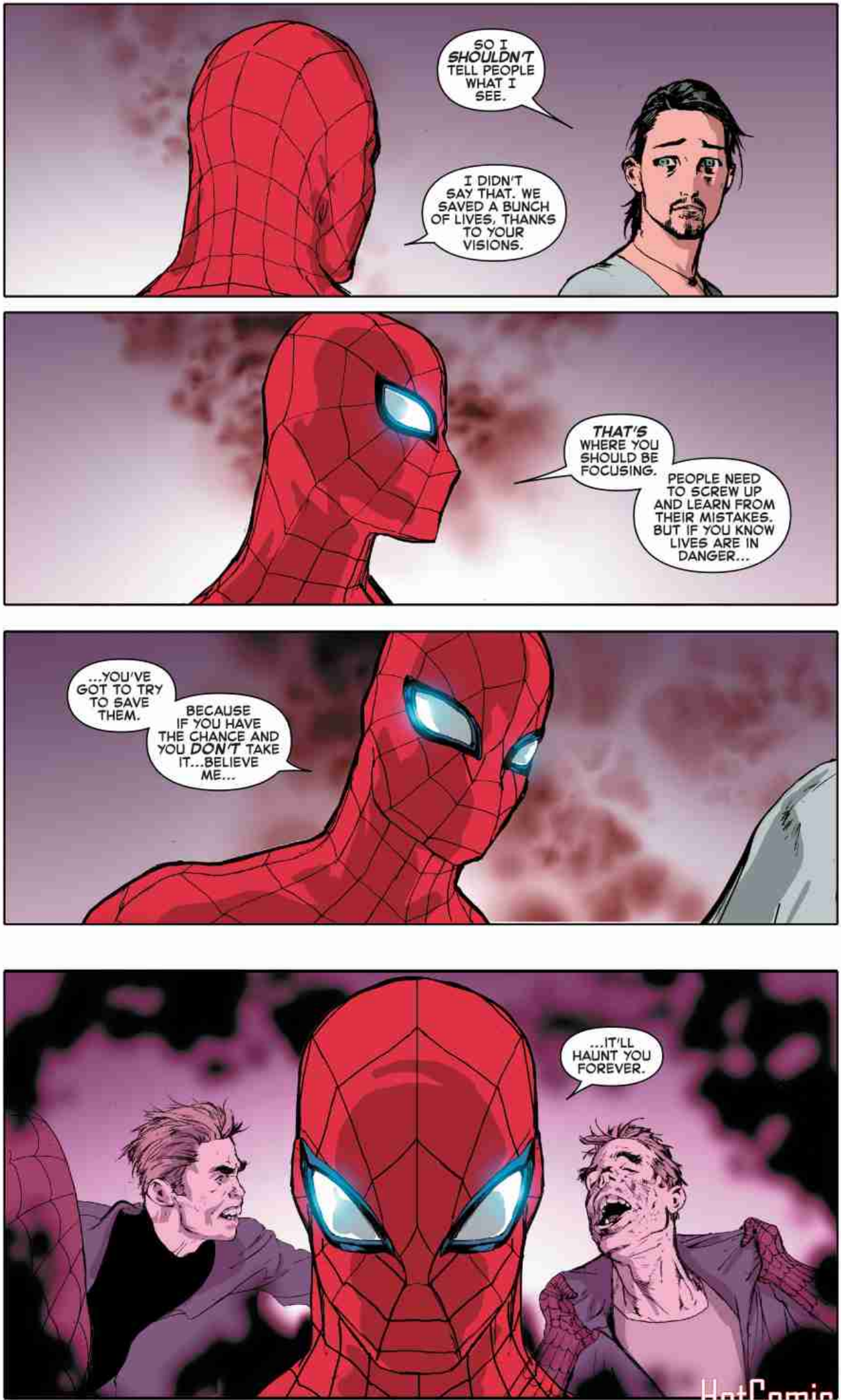
SO I SHOULDN'T TELL PEOPLE WHAT I SEE.
I DIDN'T SAY THAT. WE SAVED A BUNCH OF LIVES, THANKS TO YOUR VISIONS.
THAT'S WHERE YOU SHOULD BE FOCUSING.
PEOPLE NEED TO SCREW UP AND LEARN FROM THEIR MISTAKES. BUT IF YOU KNOW LIVES ARE IN DANGER...
...YOU'VE GOT TO TRY TO SAVE THEM.
BECAUSE IF YOU HAVE THE CHANCE AND YOU DON'T TAKE IT...BELIEVE ME...
...IT'LL HAUNT YOU FOREVER.

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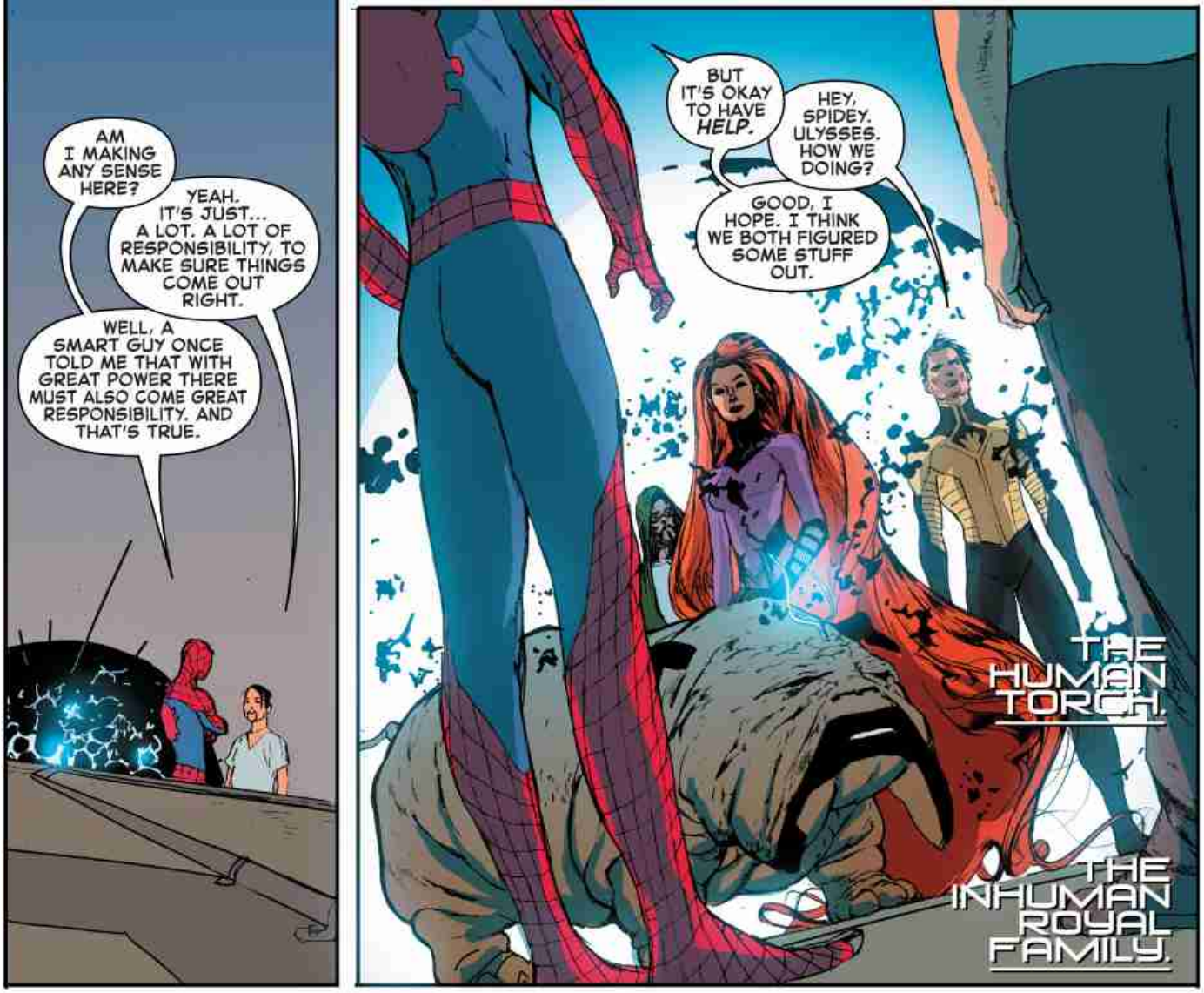
AM I MAKING ANY SENSE HERE?
YEAH. IT'S JUST... A LOT. A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY, TO MAKE SURE THINGS COME OUT RIGHT.
WELL, A SMART GUY ONCE TOLD ME THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. AND THAT'S TRUE.
BUT IT'S OKAY TO HAVE *HELP.*
HEY, SPIDEY. ULYSSES. HOW WE DOING?
GOOD, I HOPE. I THINK WE BOTH FIGURED SOME STUFF OUT.
THE HUMAN TORCH.
THE INHUMAN ROYAL FAMILY.

LISTEN--YOU FOCUS ON THE VISIONS. ON LEARNING HOW TO GET AS MUCH DETAIL AS YOU CAN: TIMES, PLACES, NAMES...
AND TRY TO STICK TO STUFF THAT ENDANGERS LIVES, NOT TOMORROW'S LOTTERY NUMBERS. I'M GUESSING *KARNAK* HERE CAN HELP WITH ALL THAT.
WHY IS THE SPIDER TALKING TO ME?

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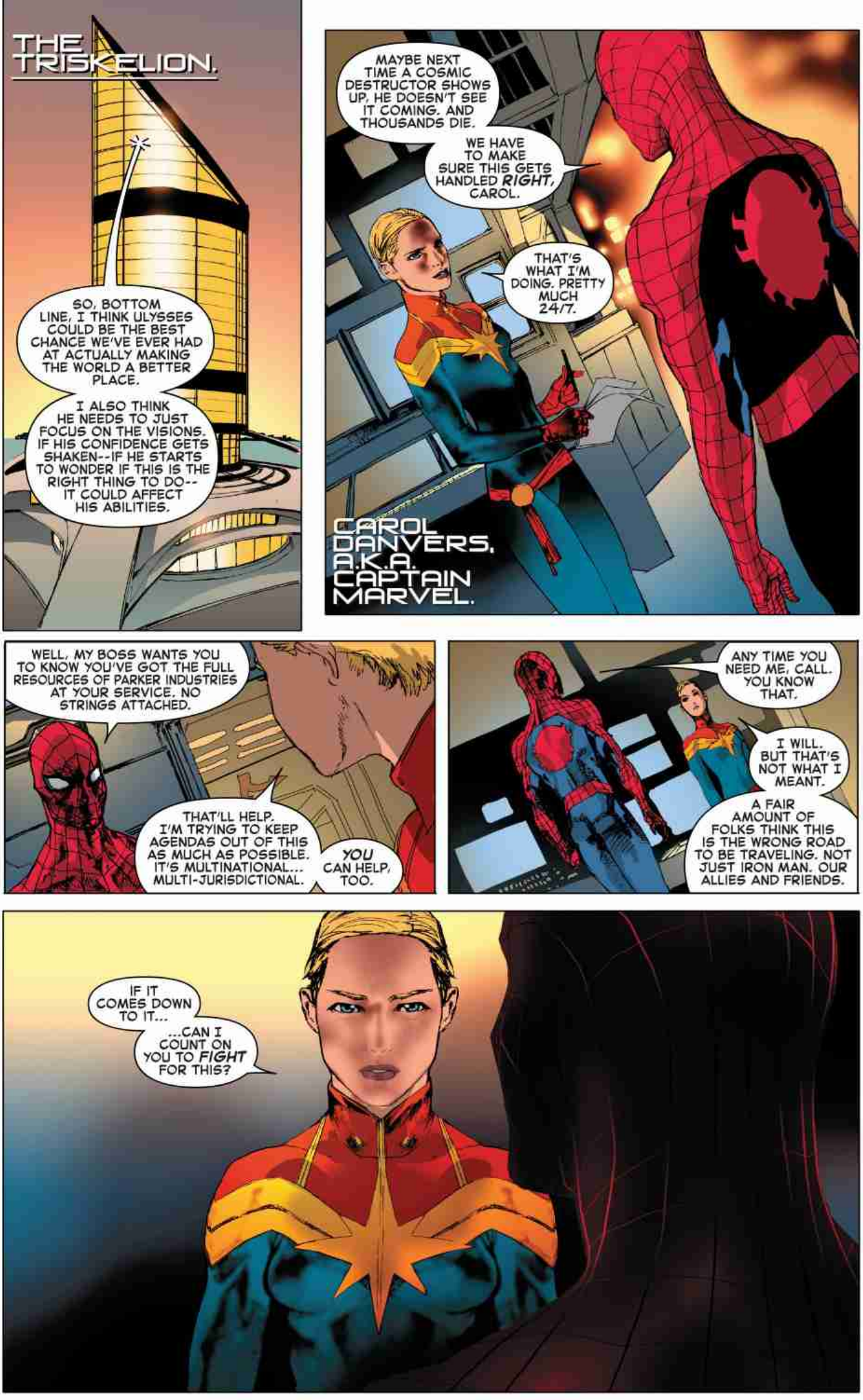
THE TRISKELION.
SO, BOTTOM LINE, I THINK ULYSSES COULD BE THE BEST CHANCE WE'VE EVER HAD AT ACTUALLY MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.
I ALSO THINK HE NEEDS TO JUST FOCUS ON THE VISIONS. IF HIS CONFIDENCE GETS SHAKEN--IF HE STARTS TO WONDER IF THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO--IT COULD AFFECT HIS ABILITIES.
MAYBE NEXT TIME A COSMIC DESTRUCTOR SHOWS UP, HE DOESN'T SEE IT COMING. AND THOUSANDS DIE.
WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THIS GETS HANDLED *RIGHT*, CAROL.
THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING. PRETTY MUCH 24/7.
CAROL DANVERS, A.K.A. CAPTAIN MARVEL.
WELL, MY BOSS WANTS YOU TO KNOW YOU'VE GOT THE FULL RESOURCES OF PARKER INDUSTRIES AT YOUR SERVICE. NO STRINGS ATTACHED.
THAT'LL HELP. I'M TRYING TO KEEP AGENDAS OUT OF THIS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. IT'S MULTINATIONAL... MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL.
YOU CAN HELP, TOO.
ANY TIME YOU NEED ME, CALL. YOU KNOW THAT.
I WILL. BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
A FAIR AMOUNT OF FOLKS THINK THIS IS THE WRONG ROAD TO BE TRAVELING. NOT JUST IRON MAN. OUR ALLIES AND FRIENDS.
IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT...
...CAN I COUNT ON YOU TO *FIGHT* FOR THIS?

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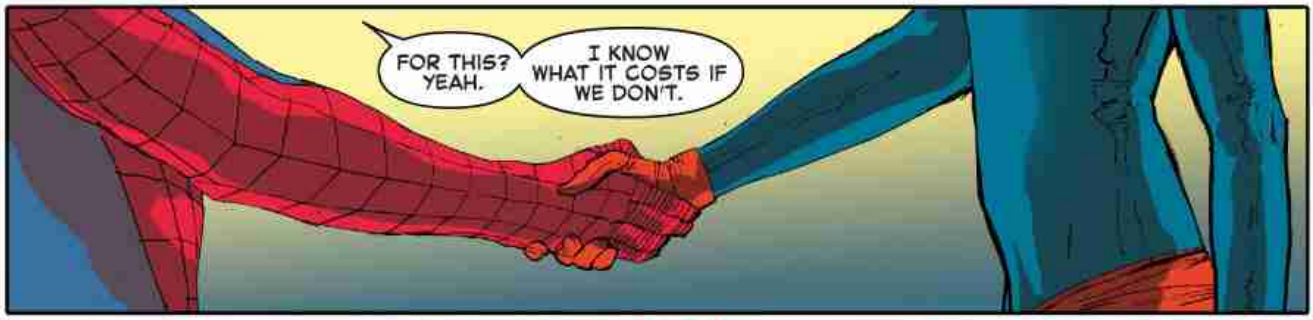

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'M ALSO GONNA BE YOUR JIMINY CRICKET. I SEE SOMETHING WRONG IN HOW YOU'RE HANDLING THINGS, I'LL BE SUPER ANNOYING.
I'LL TRY TO NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE.

OKAY, THERE ARE ZINGERS, AND THEN THERE'S JUST BEING MEAN. ARE YOU AND KARNAK RELATED?
SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, I APPRECIATE YOU TAKING THIS ON, CAROL. IT'S A HEAVY LOAD TO CARRY.
HEY. THE GREATER THE POWER, THE GREATER THE RESPONSIBILITY.

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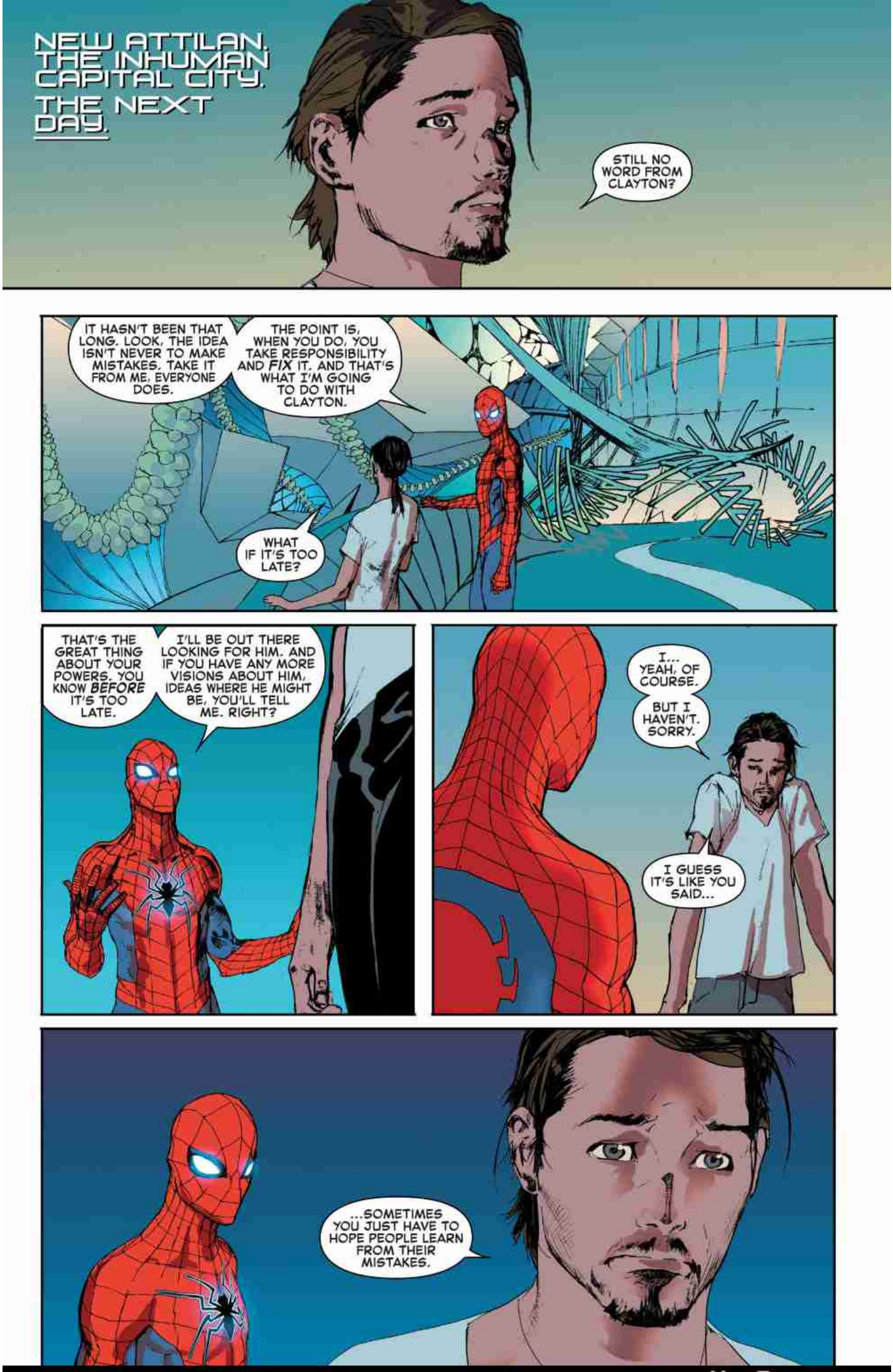
NEW ATTILAN. THE INHUMAN CAPITAL CITY. THE NEXT DAY.
STILL NO WORD FROM CLAYTON?
IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG. LOOK, THE IDEA ISN'T NEVER TO MAKE MISTAKES. TAKE IT FROM ME, EVERYONE DOES.
THE POINT IS, WHEN YOU DO, YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND FIX IT. AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WITH CLAYTON.
WHAT IF IT'S TOO LATE?
THAT'S THE GREAT THING ABOUT YOUR POWERS. YOU KNOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
I'LL BE OUT THERE LOOKING FOR HIM. AND IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE VISIONS ABOUT HIM, IDEAS WHERE HE MIGHT BE, YOU'LL TELL ME. RIGHT?
I... YEAH, OF COURSE.
BUT I HAVEN'T. SORRY.
I GUESS IT'S LIKE YOU SAID...
...SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO HOPE PEOPLE LEARN FROM THEIR MISTAKES.

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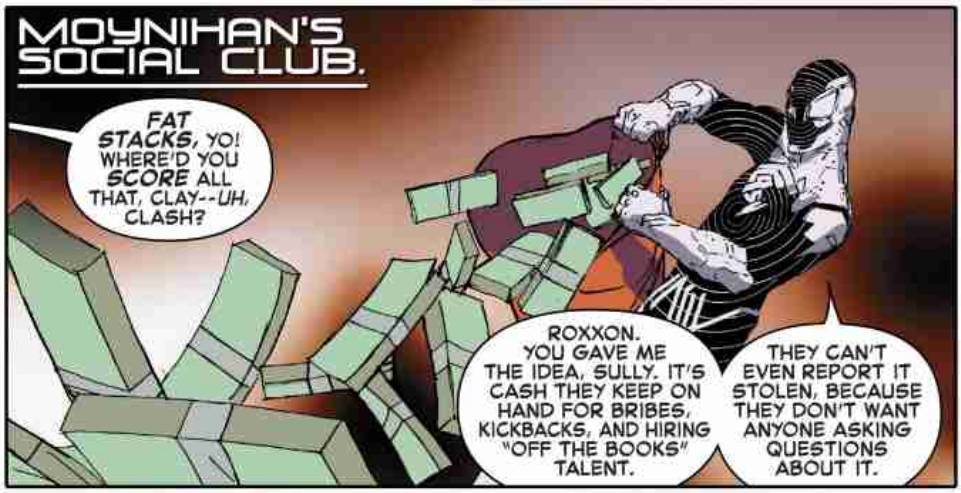
MOYNIHAN'S SOCIAL CLUB.
FAT STACKS, YO! WHERE'D YOU SCORE ALL THAT, CLAY--UH, CLASH?
ROXXON. YOU GAVE ME THE IDEA, SULLY. IT'S CASH THEY KEEP ON HAND FOR BRIBES, KICKBACKS, AND HIRING "OFF THE BOOKS" TALENT.
THEY CAN'T EVEN REPORT IT STOLEN, BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT ANYONE ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT IT.

DID I TELL YOU GUYS? MY MAN IS A GENIUS!
AND THE WAY EVERYONE SAW HIM LAY THE SMACKDOWN ON SPIDER-MAN, WE'RE GONNA GET THE PRIMO JOBS FROM HERE ON OUT!
NO. THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS ANYMORE. I'M NOBODY'S HENCHMAN.

FROM NOW ON, I BET ON MYSELF. AND I'M BETTING BIG.
YOU GUYS WANT TO COME WORK FOR ME, I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME. DO WHAT I SAY. BELIEVE IN ME. AND THE PAYOFF...

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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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That's a wrap on this chapter of CIVIL WAR II! I hope Ulysses' took Spider-Man's lesson to heart... FOR THE SAKE OF THE ENTIRE MARVEL UNIVERSE! Want to know what I mean? You're just going to have to pick up CIVIL WAR II and read the rest of Ulysses' story...

ANYHOW! It's a sweltering summer day here at Spidey central in the heart of New York City, and we're hard at work getting you the best comics in the biz!

Before we close this issue out, though, Christos Gage, the writer of this particular Spidey story (and a BUNCH of other terrific Marvel stories) wanted to drop all you readers out there in the Mighty Marvel Fantheon a line, thanking you for keeping up with this particular yarn.

Hey everybody, thanks so much for picking up this series...it's always such a pleasure to work with amazing talents like Travel Foreman, Rain Beredo and Joe Caramagna. Did these guys kill it on the robots or what? I really appreciate my pals at the Spidey editorial office, Nick Lowe and Devin Lewis, for thinking of me for this gig, and as always my partner in crime Dan Slott for his input and enthusiastic cooperation to make our story fit with AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

But most of all, I want to express my gratitude to you readers. I was kind of nervous as to how people would respond to a story on a smaller, more personal scale, as opposed to something more "big, bombastic event"-ish. But it felt like the right way to go, and I couldn't be happier at the kind words and wonderful reviews we've had thus far. Anyway, thanks again for making it possible for us to do a job we love. I hope you'll follow Travel to his well-deserved next gig as artist of THE ULTIMATES. You can find me co-writing CAPTAIN MARVEL with my wife Ruth through the Civil War II tie-ins, and soon, co-writing with Dan on the CLONE CONSPIRACY issues of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. The first one's already been scripted, and it gave me the chance to return to a character I have a SUPERIOR amount of affection for...so see you there. Thanks again!

HMM! I wonder who Christos could be referring to... Any ideas, readers?

All right, that's all the space and time we've got for this one. We'll leave you with the cover to next week's AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #18!

OTTO OCTAVIUS...TRIUMPHANT!

Over and out!

Devin

NEXT:

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DEADLIEST MAN ALIVE

Oroboros is the undefeated Supreme Grand Master of the Fighting Arts. Oroboros won the World Overall Fighting Arts Championship (Master & Expert Divisions) after defeating the world's top Masters of JUDO, BOXING, WRESTLING, KUNG-FU, KARATE, AIKIDO, etc. in Death Matches. On Aug. 1, 1967, the World Federation of Fighting Arts crowned Oroboros "THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST FIGHTING ARTS CHAMPION AND MASTER."

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